

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 333  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2021**

**EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES OF BSNL**

333 # Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL network is not much popular in rural areas due to infrastructural obstacles;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL consumers are turning towards other service providers due to these obstacles; and
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to expand the infrastructural facilities of BSNL so that it can become the first choice of its consumers?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) Number of rural mobile connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during last three years are as given below:

S.No.	As on	No. of mobile subscribers	% age increase
1	31.03.2019	3,65,89,621	2.15
2	31.03.2020	3,80,85,638	4.09
3	31.03.2021	3,78,38,495	-0.65

Numbers of subscribers of BSNL in rural areas are increasing. However, there is slight drop in number of subscribers in FY 2020-21.

- (b) The figures of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) during the last three years are as below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Port out (PO)	Port in (PI)	PO/PI
1	2018-19	28,27,440	53,64,649	0.53
2	2019-20	32,69,088	39,20,284	0.83
3	2020-21	63,36,389	17,14,618	3.7

As can be seen from the Table above, BSNL has gained subscribers during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 even in the wake of challenging competition in the telecom market. However, in FY 2020-21, more subscribers have ported out due to lack of extensive 4G coverage in BSNL network.

(C) The Government approved the revival plan for BSNL on 23.10.2019, which inter-alia includes administrative allotment of spectrum for providing 4G services with funding through budgetary allocation.

BSNL has floated an Expression of Interest (EOI) on 01.01.2021 for prior registration/Proof of Concept (PoC) from Indian Companies interested in participating in BSNL's upcoming 4G tender. BSNL has issued the Letter of Intent (LoI) to 5 eligible bidders on 01.07.2021.

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